

Letter from Gardiner Greene Hubbard to Alexander Graham Bell, January 15, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Gardiner Greene Hubbard to Alexander Graham Bell. Washington, D. C. January 15, 1876. Dear Mr. Bell:

I received the specification yesterday and your letter of the 13th this A.E.

I am sorry you should have had so small an audience for the paper but about all the notice the meeting received abroad was due to the paper you send. The Tribune, Herald, Evening Post, Sun and Graphic all had long notices of it, not all praising it but that I did not expect a paper must have some merit to excite discussion so extensively as that did.

I may have overstated the expense of publishers. A newspaper, as the present time, for the price of paper has been very materially reduced within a year or two — but the statement is substantially correct that if the circulation pays expenses, the publishers are satisfied. What the profits of the N. Y. Herald are from advertising you can imagine. I said they had 60 columns a day at \$100 a column. They say they frequently have 90 columns a day. Suppose they averaged 45 columns at \$50 each, the annual profits would then be \$821,250. A reasonable sum for one man's income.

I have been over your specification with Mr. Pollok. He is very much pleased with it and says he does not think it will require any alteration. My clerk is making a copy for him, do you want the original returned to you. I did not quite understand from your letter.

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Mr. Pollok says the specification should be filed as soon as possible. There is now much excitement in this branch of Telegraphy and you in conversation may unworthingly communicate information, which will set others on the look out. Mr. Pollok gave my

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sufficient reasons to think we should lose no time in the application. I think he said he should send forward some papers to you for the purpose. I am very glad Mr. Brown is not to be there until the 26th as it would have been very inconvenient for me to leave next week.

I think you better write to Mr. Brown that we shall require some time for our conference. I will write to him tomorrow to same effect. I am,

Your friend, Gardiner G. Hubbard. P. S. I have just written Mr. Sanders saying how much pleased I am with the new specification and that "It promises to be great value, provided he prosecutes his researches daily and diligently . If not others may supplant him."